

Application No.: 10/501,247

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing contaminating or undesired substances from a carrier material which has been coated with an active ingredient containing coating forming an active ingredient containing film, this resulting active ingredient containing film has been peeled off the carrier material and the carrier material has been contaminated by contaminants or other undesired substances stemming from said coating by subjecting such carrier material to a thermal treatment which comprises

a) passing said contaminated carrier through a thermal treatment zone at a temperature and during a period of time sufficient to remove essentially all of the contaminants or other undesired substances from the carrier material and

b) feeding the removed contaminants or other undesired substances to a thermal after-burning using controlled air circulation.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said thermal treatment is performed at a temperature of approximately 80 °C and during a the period of time sufficient to remove essentially all of the undesired substances from the carrier material is approximately 0.5 to 6 minutes.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier material is paper, a polymer or a composite material composed of paper, polymer or a thin metal foil or polymer and a thin metal foil.

4. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 4.

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5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein said active ingredient containing coating is an aqueous coating composition.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein said active ingredient containing film is administered in the form of drugs, confectionary, food or cosmetics.

7. (New) A method according to Claim 1, said method further comprising
optionally cooling the treated carrier, and
coating the treated and optionally cooled carrier,
wherein said thermal treatment is imparted in a drying tunnel.